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Senator Wynona Lipman
50 Park Place
Newark, N.J. 07102

DEC 30 1980

Dear Senator Lipman:

I read with intense interest an article which appeared in the Newark Star Ledger on Sept. 30, 1980 concerning a bill which you have sponsored, with regards to child support and alimony. I have called your secretary twice to follow up on this bill, but there was no information available at either time. I am patiently awaiting the outcome of your sponsorship of this bill because I have been a "victim" of late payments.

I have been divorced since May, 1977. and my monies come to me through the Essex County Probation Department, at my request and for my own protection. In all this time I think it is safe to say I have received my monies possibly three times on time or within the three day grace period. Sounds unbelievable doesn't it? But this is true and I can prove it. I call the Probation Dept. just about every and I hear the same story, they blame my ex-husband, and they tell me they will send him a letter and get after him, etc. I do not consider myself a genius. but I am not ignorant of the law which states that 45 days must elapse before anything can commence to happen. and another 45 days must pass before you can get into court. All this time I blamed my ex-husband for sending my money late and he caused me and my children undue hardships. I still had rent to pay and food to buy. As it was, we constantly were at each other's throats over this because he would insist that he sent the money to Probation and they would insist he did not.

I have moved out of Essex County into Sussex County in April, 1980, since this move I have never had one agency cause me so much grief. I was forced to go on welfare in June 1980 through August 1980, just just to get my monies on time. Every month I call Probation to remind them that my money has not arrived, and it is as late as the 20th of the month, plus I now have the expense of a long distance telephone call which I don't need. It seems that when I do call them and do some screaming, within three or four days I receive my check.

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Last month I received my check on November 21st and it was due on the 1st of November. This month the same story, I called Probation on the 16th, they told me they did not receive it from my ex-husband yet and they would get after him. I finally did receive December's check, three days before Christmas and three weeks late.

It makes me wonder where my money lies for three weeks. Is it deposited in an interest bearing account or does it lay on some incompetent probation investigators desk until he/she has the inclination to mail it?

As time passes it only makes me wonder, I fought for my money and I am entitled to receive it on time. These investigators get paid ~~paid~~ on time, why can't I? It leaves me with a deep feeling of frustration because no one hears my cries or cares to hear them, and I know this is happening to probably many women...

What can I do to have Essex County Probation Department investigated? The system needs revamping desperately. I can no longer afford to be "victimized". Is there any way you can help guide me and other unfortunate women of the shoddy way our monies are handled? I would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration

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